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United States Patent Office- Fax 1 703 872 9306

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/057,180

Filing Date: 01/25/2002

Name of Applicant: Robert L. Irvine, Overland Park, KS

Title of Invention Process for Treating Liquid Streams to Remove Unwanted Impurities

Dear Madam/Sir:

On December 9, 2003 I wrote William A. Rudy, Esq., Lathrop & Gage, 2345 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64108-2612, advising I would pick up my files the beginning of the New Year. This followed a telephone conversation the previous day, in which it was agreed Lathrop & Gage would no longer be acting on my behalf. I also enquired in that letter if Lathrop & Gage would be informing the patent office to direct future communications to me as I intended to handle correspondence myself.

I never received a reply to my letter. I did collect my file from his office in January this year. My wife was advised by his secretary that I would be receiving a copy of a form that Mr. Rudy would be signing. I assumed this would be revoking their Power of Attorney. My wife contacted the office on numerous occasions about the non-receipt of the form. When she was able to contact a secretary she was told the filing of the form was being attended to. On another occasion she was advised a copy of the form would be faxed to her. On other occasions, telephone voice mail was never returned.

Last Friday, April 9, my wife spoke to an Inventor's Assistant at USPTO to enquire what form I needed to record a change of address and revocation of a power of attorney. She was kindly given this information and I filed a Revocation of Power of Attorney with Change of Correspondence Address with your office last Friday. In looking at my above patent application number, the Assistant further advised that an action had been sent out on January 12, 2004 and that a reply was due April 12, today.

I have received no notification from Lathrop & Gage regarding this action and, last Friday, was the first time I knew about it. My wife spoke to Mr. Rudy's secretary that day for some explanation and stressed the urgency of the matter. The secretary said Mr. Rudy was away from the office with a broken leg and that she would leave a message for the legal assistant who had handled the application previously. When my wife called back this morning, the secretary advised she had passed on the information but did not know the status. My wife asked if the secretary could ascertain the position and call her back. The secretary called back advising that the legal assistant would be pulling the file and 'phoning back this afternoon. The secretary was aware that we were planning to go out of town this week. We offered to come down to their offices to collect the action. It was then decided that faxing the action to us could be an option.

We never heard from the office. When my wife had both the secretary and legal assistant paged this afternoon, she was told that neither party was answering the page.

In these frustrating circumstances, I write to request a copy of the communication that was last sent to the attorneys as they are no longer involved in my patent application, and I am handling the above

patent application myself.

In view of these unusual circumstances, may I be granted an extension of grace? I will be returning to Kansas the beginning of May next.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Irvine